

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated March 17, 2004, claims 3-5, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 22 and 23 are amended, and no claims are canceled. Claims 1-23 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

The indication that claims 3-5, 12, 14, 15, 19 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged and appreciated. By this response, claims 3, 12, 14, 15, 19 and 22 are amended to be in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Consequently, claims 3-5, 12, 14, 15, 19 and 22 are believed to be allowable.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 6-11, 13, 16-18, 20, 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sachs et al.

To expedite prosecution, independent claims 17 and 23 are amended to delineate:

... supplying said certain energy to a second region involving said first region at a first intensity while supplying said certain energy to a remainder of said first region at a second intensity, less than the first intensity ...

This subject matter is describe in paragraphs [0180] through [0184] and with reference to FIGS. 34, 35A and 35B. Sachs et al. does not disclose or suggest supplying the certain energy to

a second region involving the first region at a first intensity while supplying the certain energy to a remainder of the first region at a second intensity, less than the first intensity. Consequently, amended independent claims 17 and 23, as well as dependent claim 18, are patentable over Sachs et al. and their allowance is respectfully solicited.

In addition, claim 16 is amended to recite:

said energy supply device and said binder applying device are integrally configured, and

said binder applying device applies binder during a primary scanning in a first direction while said energy supplying device supplies said certain energy during a secondary scanning in a second direction, reverse said first direction.

Sachs et al. neither discloses nor suggests that the energy supply device and the binder applying device are integrally configured, and that the binder applying device applies binder during a primary scanning in a first direction while the energy supplying device supplies the certain energy during a secondary scanning in a second direction, reverse the first direction. Thus, amended claim 16 is patentable over Sachs et al.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward J. Wise', is written over the printed name.

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